

# AUSTRALIA'S RALLIES ARE

# RIDICULOUS

MELBOURNE TRUTH, SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1966 25

WHEN the important international BP Rally is won or lost on the spelling of a name, it makes motor sport in this country a joke. This points up comments by overseas rally and trials competitors who describe our events as laughable, children's treasure hunts.

Last week's "court" case to settle a protest over the result of the BP Rally held in May was a farce.

● The Holden crew gave the name of a property as Innisfail.

● The Ford team spelt the name with an "e" and a "v" — the name was painted on the gate of a property as Innesvail — and lost the rally.

● But the Australian Motor Sport Appeal Court, the highest of its kind in the country, ruled that the name was spelt Innisfail of an army survey map used by rally crews.

So the most important Australian rally of the year was won as children would win a spelling competition.

## TRICKY

I'm not criticising the Holden or Ford Cortina teams who argued the result for eight weeks.

They only took advantage of the regulations that accompanied the rally to gain prestige and prize money for their cars.

I'm criticising the overall organisation behind our rallies and trials which seems to concentrate too much on tricky little navigational problems, rather than allow competitors to test a driver's skill and the durability of vehicles.

To be of value, a rally should test the driver's skill and the lasting powers of the car.

Unlike overseas rallies

## TRUTH *on* MOTORS with ALEC MARTIN

and trials, Australian events seem to be based too much on navigation.

The Ampol Trial of 1964 attracted more than 200 entries — because crews and manufacturers knew that the event would not include silly little navigational tricks.

And the forthcoming Southern Cross Rally over 2000 miles is expected to follow the same lines, giving drivers and cars the chance to prove their worth over the Alps and other tough sections.

Most of the rallies and trials conducted in NSW feature speed sections in remote, outback properties and Forest Commission estates.

These NSW-promoted events often attract more entries than some of our so-called national competitions.

Pat Moss, one of the world's greatest rally drivers and a sister to

former racer Sterling, described Australian rallies this way: "I gave up long-distance treasure hunts before I took up serious motor sport."

Australian rally driver, George Reynolds, who has competed in the Rally of Spain, the Tulip Rally, the Acropolis Rally and other world events, has also hit out at our rally organisers.

## CHANGE

"The BP Rally is nothing more than a long-distance treasure hunt and a first-class hide-and-seek event," he said.

Overseas drivers and navigators agree that Australia is one of the few countries in the world where a first-class international long-distance event can be staged.

But if Australia is to attract the big rally and trials crews, we must change our ideas.



● PAT MOSS, irritated at silly navigational tricks by Australian organisers, describes our trials as "long-distance treasure hunts."